

V. REMARKS

in the Final Office Action, claims 1-7 are rejected under 35 USC 102 (a) as being anticipated by Loose et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,517,433). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Loose teaches a spinning reel slot machine. The slot machine includes a plurality of mechanical rotatable reels and a video display. In response to a wager, the reels are rotated and stopped to randomly place symbols on the reels in visual association with a display area. The video display provides a video image superimposed upon the reels. The video image may be interactive with the reels and include such graphics as payout values, a pay table, pay lines, bonus game features, special effects, thematic scenery, and instructional information.

Claim 1, as amended, is directed to a gaming machine that includes a cabinet, at least one decoration panel, a display device, a plurality of rotary reels and at least one light source unit. Claim 1 recites that the at least one decoration panel is disposed on the front of the cabinet and the display device includes a mask panel having a plurality of display windows provided therethrough with the display device mounted on the front of the cabinet and adjacent the at least one decoration panel. Claim 1 further recites that the mask panel defines an imaginary plane. Additionally, claim 1 recites that the plurality of rotatory reels are operative to rotate about a common axis of rotation and positioned in a juxtaposed manner inside the cabinet with each one of the plurality of rotatory reels having a plurality of symbols disposed on respective outer peripheries thereof and forward most ones of the plurality of symbols being visible through respective ones of the display windows. Further, claim 1 recites that the at least one light source unit is disposed inside of the cabinet and behind the at least one decoration panel with the at least one light source unit extending longitudinally along and about a longitudinal axis and including an elongated illuminating lamp and an elongated reflection plate positioned adjacent the illuminating lamp. Claim 1 also recites that the illuminating lamp and the reflection plate extend parallel to one another and to the common axis of rotation and the at

least one decoration panel is illuminated by light illuminating from the illuminating lamp and the forward most ones of the plurality of symbols are illuminated by the light illuminating from the illuminating lamp and by light illuminating from the illuminating lamp reflected from the reflection plate. Additionally, claim 1 recites that the at least one light source unit is disposed apart from the display windows and longitudinally contacts the imaginary plane and the illuminating lamp and the reflection plate are arranged so that the plurality of symbols are directly illuminated.

It is respectfully submitted that the rejection is improper because the applied art fails to teach each and every element of claim 1 as amended. Specifically, it is respectfully submitted that the applied art fails to teach that Claim 1 the display device includes a mask panel having a plurality of display windows provided therethrough with the mask panel defining an imaginary plane and the at least one light source unit is disposed apart from the display windows and longitudinally contacts the imaginary plane. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that claim 1 is allowable over the applied art.

Claim 3, as amended, is directed to a gaming machine with features similar to those of claim 1 recited above. Also, claim 3 recites a first decoration panel and a second decoration panel are disposed apart from one another on the front of the cabinet with the display device positioned therebetween and extending parallel to the imaginary plane. Claim 3 further recites a first light source unit disposed inside of the cabinet and behind the first decoration panel with the first light source unit extending longitudinally along and about a first longitudinal axis and including an elongated first illuminating lamp and an elongated first reflection plate positioned adjacent the first illuminating lamp such that the first decoration panel is illuminated by light illuminating from the first illuminating lamp and the forward most ones of the plurality of symbols are illuminated by the light illuminating from the first illuminating lamp and by light illuminating from the first illuminating lamp reflected from the first reflection plate with the first longitudinal axis extending parallel to the common axis of rotation.

Additionally, claim 3 recites a second light source unit disposed inside of the cabinet and behind the second decoration panel with the second light source unit extending longitudinally along and about a second longitudinal axis and including an elongated second illuminating lamp and an elongated second reflection plate positioned adjacent the second illuminating lamp and with the second longitudinal axis extending parallel to the first longitudinal axis and the common axis of rotation. Also, claim 3 recites that the second decoration panel is illuminated by light illuminating from the second illuminating lamp and the forward most ones of the plurality of symbols are illuminated by the light illuminating from the second illuminating lamp and by light illuminating from the second illuminating lamp reflected from the second reflection plate. Furthermore, claim 3 recites that the mask panel is disposed between the first light source unit and the second light source unit with the first light source unit being disposed apart from the display windows and longitudinally contacting the imaginary plane and with the second light source unit being disposed apart from the display windows and longitudinally contacting the imaginary plane and the first light source unit and the second light source unit are arranged so that the plurality of symbols are directly illuminated.

It is respectfully submitted that the rejection is improper because the applied art fails to teach each and every element of claim 3, as amended. Specifically, it is respectfully submitted that the applied art fails to teach recites that the mask panel is disposed between the first light source unit and the second light source unit with the first light source unit being disposed apart from the display windows and longitudinally contacting the imaginary plane and with the second light source unit being disposed apart from the display windows and longitudinally contacting the imaginary plane. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that claim 3 is allowable over the applied art.

Claim 4, as amended, is directed to a gaming machine with features similar to claims of 1 and 3. Claim 4 recites that at least one light source unit illuminates the at least one decoration panel from the inside of the cabinet with the at least one light source unit extending longitudinally along and about a first longitudinal axis and with

the first longitudinal axis extending parallel to the common axis of rotation. Claim 4 also recites that at least one reflection unit for guiding the light emitted from the at least one light source unit with the at least one reflection unit disposed adjacent the at least one light source unit, extending along and about a second longitudinal axis and with the second longitudinal axis extending and parallel to the first longitudinal axis and the common axis of rotation. Additionally, claim 4 recites that the at least one reflection unit is arranged to guide the light emitted from the at least one light source unit to illuminate the plurality of symbols provided on the rotary reels. Furthermore, claim 4 recites that the at least one light source unit and the at least one reflection unit is disposed apart from the display windows with the at least one light source disposed between the at least one reflection unit and the display windows and the at least one light source unit and the at least one reflection unit longitudinally contact the imaginary plane and the at least one light source unit and the at least one reflection unit are arranged so that the plurality of symbols are directly illuminated.

It is respectfully submitted that the rejection is improper because the applied art fails to teach each and every element of claim 4, as amended. Specifically, it is respectfully submitted that the applied art fails to teach the at least one light source unit and the at least one reflection unit is disposed apart from the display windows with the at least one light source disposed between the at least one reflection unit and the display windows and the at least one light source unit and the at least one reflection unit longitudinally contact the imaginary plane. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that claim 4 is allowable over the applied art.

Claim 2 depends from claim 1 and includes all of the features of claim 1. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that the dependent claim is allowable at least for the reason claim 1 is allowable as well as for the features it recites.

Claims 5-7 depend from claim 4 and includes all of the features of claim 4. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that the dependent claims are allowable at least for the reason claim 4 is allowable as well as for the features they recite.

Furthermore, it is apparent that in Loose et al, as shown in Fig. 2b thereof, reel 12a is not illuminated with CRT 14b. On the contrary, in an apparatus according to the present invention, a reel 26 is directly illuminated with a illumination lamp 57 and a reflection plate 59. Thus, since the symbols of the reel are brightly illuminated with the illumination lamp and the reflection plate, the players can easily see the symbols of the reel.

Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Further, Applicants assert that there are also reasons other than those set forth above why the pending claims are patentable. Applicants hereby reserve the right to submit those other reasons and to argue for the patentability of claims not explicitly addressed herein in future papers.

In view of the foregoing, reconsideration of the application and allowance of the pending claims are respectfully requested. Should the Examiner believe anything further is desirable in order to place the application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' representative at the telephone number listed below.

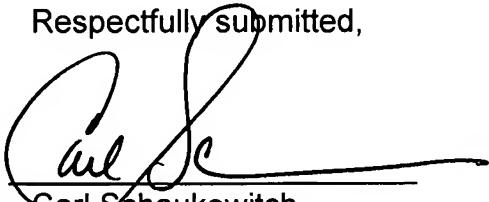
Should additional fees be necessary in connection with the filing of this paper or if a Petition for Extension of Time is required for timely acceptance of the same,

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the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 18-0013 for any such fees and Applicant(s) hereby petition for such extension of time.

Date: October 17, 2007

Respectfully submitted,
By: 
~~Carl Schaukowitch~~
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Enclosure(s): Amendment Transmittal
 Petition for Extension off Time (one-month)
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